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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/699,923	10/30/2000	David H. Lynch	2836-E	8828

7590 02/25/2002

Kathleen Fowler
Immunex Corporation
Law Department
51 University Street
Seattle, WA 98101

EXAMINER

GAMBEL, PHILLIP

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1644

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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EXAMINER

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DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/7/01
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 12, 13, 15-36 is/are pending in the application.
Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) 12, 13, 15-36 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

- All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment, filed 10/30/00 (Paper No. 6), has been entered.
Claims 1-11 and 14 have been canceled.
Claims 12-13 have been amended.
Claims 15-36 have been added.
2. Applicant's election of the species GM-CSF in Paper No. 8, filed 12/7/01, is acknowledged.
3. Upon reconsideration of the claims, it is noted that independent claim 12 is drawn to transfecting dendritic cells with a gene encoding an antigen while independent claim 15 is drawn to exposing dendritic cells with an antigen. Given that the claims encompass different method steps and ingredients encompassed by such methods, the following Restriction is set forth. The examiner apologizes to applicant for any inconvenience in this matter.
4. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:
 - I. Claims 12-13, 17-22, drawn to a method of preparing antigen-presenting dendritic cells by transfecting said dendritic cells with a gene encoding an antigen, classified in Class 435, subclasses 375 and 455.
 - II. Claims 15-16, 23-36, drawn to a method of preparing antigen-presenting dendritic cells, classified in Class 435, subclasses 2 and 377.
5. Inventions I and II are different methods, which require different ingredients, process steps and endpoints. Therefore, they are patentably distinct.
6. Applicant's election of GM-CSF is acknowledged.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed Groups I and II: wherein the molecule in addition to flt3-ligand is:

- A) GM-CSF,
- B) IL-4,
- C) TNF- α ,
- D) IL-3,
- E) c-kit ligand,
- F) fusions or GM-CSF and IL-3.
- G) CD40L or
- H) CD40-specific antibody.

These species are distinct because their structures and modes of action are different.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 12, 15 and 29 are generic.

7. Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. M.P.E.P. § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

8. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

9. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phillip Gabel whose telephone number is (703) 308-3997. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (703) 308-3973. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Serial No. 09/699923
Art Unit 1644

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Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Fax Center telephone number is (703) 305-3014.

Phillip Gammel

Phillip Gammel, PhD.
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1600
February 25, 2002